

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

PPT-01 SCA-01 PER-01 A-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 PC-01 IO-13 /092 W

----- 033341

R 271416Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6504

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4896

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: SECURITY CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA: ADVICE FOR VISITING  
STUDENTS

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CURRENT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN  
ARGENTINA IS INTENDED TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN RESPONDING TO  
INQUIRIES FROM STUDENT EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL  
STUDENTS CONTEMPLATING VISITS OR STUDY IN ARGENTINA.

2. TERRORIST AND COUNTER-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA  
HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN DIRECTED AT PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS  
INVOLVED IN THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL SCENE. "TARGETS" ARE  
NORMALLY SPECIFIC RATHER THAN GENERAL. INDISCRIMINATE BOMBINGS  
OF THEATERS OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN  
RARE, AND IN THE RELATIVELY FEW INSTANCES WHERE SUCH RANDOM  
TERRORISM HAS TAKEN PLACE IT HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT BUILDINGS  
KNOWN TO BE EMPTY OR AFTER AMPLE WARNING TO PERSONS PRESENT  
TO EVACUATE. CURRENT TARGETS OF THE ILLEGAL EXTREMIST GROUPS  
ARE THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AND TO A LESSER EXTENT  
EXECUTIVES, BOTH FOREIGN AND ARGENTINE, OF LARGE ENTERPRISES.  
CASUAL VISITORS, EVEN STUDENTS, ARE UNLIKELY TO BECOME TARGETS.  
FURTHER, A VISITOR OR FOREIGN RESIDENT WOULD NORMALLY NOT BE  
AFFECTED BY SECURITY FORCES OPERATIONS OTHER THAN TO PASS  
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OCCASIONAL STREET CHECKPOINTS OR ANSWER ROUTINE POLICE

INQUIRIES. A VISITOR OR FOREIGN RESIDENT COULD BE CAUGHT UP INADVERTENTLY IN AN INCIDENT, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO AMERICAN TOURIST OR RESIDENT HAS HAD THIS MISFORTUNE TO DATE. FR THE TOURIST OR "PRIVATE" FOREIGN RESIDENT IN GENERAL, THAT IS, A RESIDENT NOT DIRECTLY IDENTIFIED WITH AN EMBASSY OR BUSINESS CONCERN, THERE IS A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL OF DANGER.

3. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMING TO ARGENTINA TO RESIDE IN RECENT MONTHS FROM THE US HAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS IS APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE NOT TO ANY SPECIFIC INCIDENT INVOLVING STUDENTS, BUT TO IMPRESSIONS CREATED BY PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GENERAL SITUATION.

4. ADVICE TO BE OFFIRED TO STUDENTS AT SECONDARY, UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVEL AND EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT INCLUDE:

A. AVOIDANCE TO DEGREE POSSIBLE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN FOUR PROVINCES OF SANTA FE (CITY OF ROSARIO), CORDOBA, TUCUMAN, AND CATAMARCA. THESE ARE AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTENSITY OF SECURITY PROBLEMS. STUDENTS MIGHT ALSO AVOID UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. AS GENERAL RULE, A FOREIGN STUDENT WILL BE LESS CONSPICUOUS IN BUENOS AIRES THAN IN A PROVINCIAL CITY, AND STUDENT WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS EXPOSED TO ATTENTIONS OF EITHER THE LEFTIST EXTREMISTS OR GOA SECURITY FORCES.

B. STRICT AVOIDANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN ANY FORM OF INTERNAL ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. ARGENTINE UNIVERSITIES, LIKE MOST LATIN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, TEND TO BE CENTERS OF POLITICAL AGITATION. ANY FOREIGN STUDENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS, AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING ALOOF FROM ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF HOST COUNTRY. UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS, INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MAY BE INTERPRETED BY AUTHORITIES AS NOTHING MORE THAN ATTENDANCE AT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, ASSOCIATION EVEN BY ACCIDENT WITH SUBVERSIVES OR SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES, OR COLLECTING "SUBVERSIVE" LITERATURE.

C. NEW MILITARY GOA IS CONSERVATIVE IN POLITICS AND WITH RESPECT TO ITS OUTLOOK ON PERSONAL CONDUCT. AUTHORITIES CAN CONFIDENTIAL

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BE EXPECTED TO CONSIDER UNCONVENTIONAL BEHAVIOR, RADICAL HAIR-STYLES, UNKEMPT APPEARANCE OR BIZARRE DRESS, DRUG USE, ETC., AS UNDESIRABLE AND A POSSIBLE INDICATION OF UNDESIRABLE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL VIEWS. WE WOULD BE AMONG FIRST TO AGREE WITH STUDENTS THAT THIS IS UNFAIR AND UNJUSTIFIED, BUT IT IS FACT OF LIFE IN ARGENTINA WHICH A SERIOUS STUDENT WILL WISH TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IF HE PLANS TO STUDY HERE.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE DO NOT THINK THAT A STUDENT WITH A STRONG  
AND SPECIFIC INTEREST IN STUDY IN ARGENTINA SHOULD BE DISSUADED,  
AS LONG AS HE IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE GIVEN ABOVE AND  
TO CONDUCT HIMSELF PRUDENTLY.  
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